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POLICY ISSUES FOR ACTION BY THE UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL DRUG CONTROL PROGRAMME

Activities of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme

Report of the Executive Director

Summary

The present report provides an overview of the strategic direction of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) and the principal activities undertaken during 1997 in support of the efforts of the international community in dealing with the drug problem. As a centre of competence and the international reference point for drug control, UNDCP played a catalytical role in stimulating action at the national, regional and international levels through a portfolio of technical cooperation programmes undertaken by a network of field offices located in key regions and countries. It promoted subregional cooperation and acted as an honest "broker" in furthering bilateral cooperation and direct consultations between Governments. UNDCP mobilized specialized agencies and other entities of the United Nations, the international financial institutions, other intergovernmental organizations and civil society, particularly non-governmental organizations to mount a global response to the drug problem. The present report reviews the financial situation of UNDCP and examines progress made in following up initiatives taken to broaden its financial base.

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I. OVERVIEW OF THE STRATEGIC THRUST OF THE UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL DRUG CONTROL PROGRAMME

A. United Nations International Drug Control Programme: an instrument for action

1. In 1997, the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) served as both an instrument of and support for the international community in pursuing its drug control objectives within the framework of the international drug control treaties. It led the application of a strategy based on a balanced approach with demand reduction and supply reduction as mutually reinforcing elements. UNDCP pursued its strategy in close cooperation with Governments, civil society, particularly other United Nations entities, the international financial institutions, non-governmental organizations working at the grass-roots level and local communities and institutions.

2. Through a well-balanced portfolio of technical cooperation activities, mainly carried out by its network of field offices positioned in key countries and regions, UNDCP continued to act as both catalyst and advocate, motivating Governments to take action in the field of drug control. In 1997, it supported national efforts and initiatives, giving particular attention to institution-building, particularly the preparation, adoption and application of national drug control master plans, the establishment of coordinating and planning capacities and the strengthening of national capacities in demand reduction and law enforcement.

3. UNDCP pursues a participatory approach, its objectives being to involve Governments, local communities and target groups in the process of defining and developing programmes in order to ensure ownership at the local level. Local ownership of programmes and activities remains an important element in UNDCP technical cooperation efforts, ensuring their sustainability.

4. To enhance the operational capacity of UNDCP, to improve its efficiency and to further its development as an operationally flexible and streamlined organization, a decision was taken to decentralize to the field offices the responsibility for and authority over each of the seven regional programmes. That was accompanied by a redeployment of human resources from UNDCP headquarters to strengthen expert capacity in the field. Headquarters maintains overall policy control and its management oversight function. This strategic shift is reflected in the budget of UNDCP for the biennium 1998-1999, which was approved by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its reconvened fortieth session in its resolution 7 (XL). At that same session, the Commission also approved the recommended abolition of administrative layers, a decrease in senior-level positions and a cut in travel funds at UNDCP headquarters of 25 per cent.

B. Strengthening the legal framework

5. In view of the central role of treaty compliance, UNDCP has continued to give priority to assisting Member States in applying the international drug control treaties. The assistance has included training for law enforcement personnel and national administrators, as well as for judges, magistrates and prosecutors. An important challenge is to ensure that the global programme against money-laundering, backed by enhanced expertise and an expanded scope of technical assistance, fulfils its critical role of assisting Member States in countering money-laundering and in overcoming obstacles to law enforcement cooperation in that area. It remains, however, the responsibility of Member States to make use of the international drug control treaties as effective instruments for countering the drug menace by putting into practice the provisions of those treaties.

C. Demand reduction: the indispensable pillar

6. Demand reduction is an indispensable pillar in the UNDCP global strategy to counter illicit drugs. For the biennium 1998-1999, UNDCP is allocating US$22 million for technical assistance in the field of demand

reduction at the country level, an amount higher than the revised figure for the biennium 1996-1997. With regard to the number of ongoing technical assistance projects, UNDCP currently has 80 country-level projects in demand reduction, compared with 31 projects for supply reduction and 72 projects for the suppression of illicit drug trafficking. To complement the national projects, UNDCP is undertaking demand reduction activities through global programmes in cooperation with other United Nations entities, particularly the Joint and Co-sponsored United Nations Programme on Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (UNAIDS), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the International Labour Organization (ILO), and the World Health Organization (WHO). One example of this is the joint UNDCP/WHO project to mobilize local communities in the prevention of drug abuse among young people, which is valued at US$5 million.

7. While demand reduction remains a fundamental element in its strategy, UNDCP has limited resources for advance funding of programmes in this sector. Activities in the field of demand reduction are subject to the contributions made to the Fund of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme. A worrying trend is for the donor community to allocate contributions to the Fund of UNDCP and to consider more favourably the financing of projects aimed at reducing the supply of illicit drugs or at combating illicit drug trafficking than the financing of projects aimed at reducing the demand for illicit drugs. To ensure an acceptably high level of expenditure for this sector, demand reduction figures prominently in the fund-raising drive of UNDCP, which has been targeting international financial institutions as a source of funding.

8. The initiatives taken by UNDCP to ensure that Governments give increased priority to demand reduction will be strengthened following the adoption of a declaration on the guiding principles of drug demand reduction by the General Assembly at its special session to be held in June 1998. The declaration will complement the international drug control treaties, which are mostly concerned with regulatory control and the suppression of illicit drug trafficking.

D. New initiatives to eliminate illicit narcotic crops

9. UNDCP has successfully acted as both catalyst and expert in efforts to eliminate the illicit cultivation of the opium poppy, as evidenced by the achievements of countries such as Iran (Islamic Republic of), Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Pakistan, Thailand, Turkey and Viet Nam. Currently, large-scale illicit cultivation of the opium poppy is mostly concentrated in two countries: Afghanistan and Myanmar. The commitment of the Governments of Bolivia, Colombia and Peru is reflected in the alternative development programmes that they have undertaken to eradicate illicit crops.

10. The international community has expressed its commitment to the eradication of illicit narcotic crops in the international drug control treaties, particularly in article 14 of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988.[1] It has reiterated that objective in resolutions adopted by intergovernmental bodies, particularly the General Assembly. In order to assist Governments in meeting their treaty obligations and to support the commitment of the international community, UNDCP launched a special initiative to eliminate the illicit cultivation of the opium poppy and the coca bush worldwide in the next 10 years. The proposal was endorsed by the Secretary-General and the Senior Management Group, a de facto cabinet of the United Nations. The illicit cultivation of cannabis will, however, be dealt with in a different framework, due to factors such as the ubiquitous nature of the cannabis plant and its pattern of cultivation (i.e. its potential to grow wild or to be cultivated by hydroponic means).

E. Afghanistan: addressing a major source of illicit supply of heroin and opium

11. In 1997, UNDCP resumed its operations in Afghanistan as an integral part of the United Nations strategic framework for Afghanistan. Its programmes covering demand reduction, alternative development, institution-

building and combating drug trafficking were extended to the whole country. The UNDCP approach is one of constructive engagement with Afghan authorities, working with local authorities in the target area and emphasizing participation. Afghan "ownership" of programmes is a crucial element in the UNDCP approach. Drug control objectives, in particular the enforcement of the ban on and the reduction of illicit opium poppy cultivation and the fulfilment of demand reduction objectives, can only be achieved with the direct involvement of the local authorities. It is a flexible approach based, in the short term, on undertaking small-scale activities to match the resolve of the local authorities to control drugs. While keeping gender equality a long-term objective, UNDCP is vigorously applying that principle in activities at the field level as one of its conditions for cooperation with local authorities.

12. UNDCP took the initiative in encouraging the Taliban to take the first steps towards the elimination of illicit opium poppy cultivation, initially by enforcing a ban on illicit cultivation. The initiatives of UNDCP are supported by the international community. In its resolution 52/211 B, of 19 December 1997, entitled "The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security", the General Assembly commended the efforts of the Executive Director of UNDCP and took note of communications received by UNDCP with regard to the banning of the cultivation and use of and trade in opium in Afghanistan and called for full compliance with those commitments.

F. Promoting subregional cooperation

13. Promoting regional cooperation as a vehicle for strengthening political commitment to counter the drug problem remains an important cornerstone of the UNDCP strategy. The challenge is to ensure that the global network of memoranda of understanding, which UNDCP has promoted, becomes in practice an effective framework of cooperation between Governments. UNDCP will continue to promote bilateral cooperation and understanding in the field of drug control by playing the role of an honest "broker", sponsoring direct consultations between the parties concerned. This approach has been successful in strengthening cross-border cooperation at the regional level. In 1997, an increased number of drug control programmes were undertaken within the framework of regional agreements or plans of action, such as the Plan of Action on Drug Control in Africa, adopted by the Organization of African Unity (OAU) at its Assembly of Heads of State and Government held at Yaoundé from 8 to 10 July 1996, and the Plan of Action for Drug Control Coordination and Cooperation in the Caribbean, adopted by the Regional Meeting of Drug Control Cooperation in the Caribbean, held at Bridgetown from 15 to 17 May 1996.

G. Mobilizing civil society

14. In countering the drug problem, the support and involvement of civil society, parliamentarians, the private sector and non-governmental organizations are of paramount importance. To enable civil society to make substantive contributions to UNDCP activities, the budget for the biennium 1998-1999 provides for the establishment of advocacy groups, composed of renowned experts from the private and public sectors, in a number of selected countries. A new initiative was the participation of the Executive Director of UNDCP in the Transatlantic Drugs Conference, an informal meeting on drug control involving the European Commission and members of the European Parliament held at Edinburgh, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, from 20 to 21 November 1997.

15. UNDCP has strengthened its ties with non-governmental organizations, particularly those directly involved in demand reduction activities at the grass-roots level. It launched programmes to strengthen the capacity of non-governmental organizations and local communities in the field of demand reduction in, for example, eastern, southern and western Africa. To ensure broad-based support for drug control, UNDCP promoted partnerships with the business community, particularly in support of programmes in the workplace.

16. To reach out to Member States, and to involve the widest possible representation of society in its undertakings, UNDCP developed a strategy to better communicate its mission and achievements. It mapped out a series of public information activities to raise the awareness of individuals and societies to the problems generated by the drug problem. To make known to the public its achievements and success stories, a publication entitled *UNDCP: Facing the Challenge* was issued. Compared with the emphasis of the media on the worsening of the drug problem, little attention has been given to the strength of the drug control system, which continues to provide an indispensable mechanism for international cooperation. Despite what the public might be expected to believe as a result of the sensationalization of the drug problem and the glamorization of drug abuse by the media, drug abuse affects a very small percentage of the population. UNDCP will continue to promote a positive approach to addressing the drug problem, to emphasize its solid achievements and to draw up effective strategies to tackle the problem.

H. Inter-agency coordination and cooperation

17. To fulfil its mandate in coordinating and taking a lead role in all United Nations drug control activities, UNDCP has involved specialized agencies and other entities of the United Nations system, including the international financial institutions, in mounting a global response to the drug threat. Through the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) and the ACC Subcommittee on Drug Control, UNDCP continued to secure the commitment of United Nations entities to include, whenever appropriate, a drug control dimension in their programmes of work. In 1997, 40 per cent of allocations from the Fund of UNDCP were made to 14 partners in the United Nations system as executing or associated agencies. The Senior Management Group, chaired by the Secretary-General, was used as a new vehicle to further cooperation with other parts of the United Nations system.

I. Funding of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme: strategic implications

18. There is a growing discrepancy between the recognition that increased priority should be given to the fight against illicit drugs and the amount of resources being allocated at the national and international levels for that purpose. As reiterated by the heads of State or their representatives at the fifty-first session of the General Assembly, pledges made at the highest political level to deal with the drug problem do not match the resources provided to reduce the threat posed by drug abuse and illicit drug trafficking.

19. The precarious financial situation of UNDCP remained unchanged in 1997. The Fund of UNDCP continued to depend on a small donor base, as 84 per cent of voluntary contributions were provided by eight Governments. Resources from the regular budget of the United Nations allocated for international drug control account for less than 10 per cent of the total budget of UNDCP. The fragile financial situation has been exacerbated by a decline in general-purpose contributions and increased earmarking by Governments contributing to the Fund of UNDCP. These conditions make it extremely difficult to launch new initiatives; they cripple the flexibility of UNDCP and undermine its credibility. For example, the alternative development programme in Myanmar was approved in 1996 but continues to lack funding for its full execution.

20. The immediate challenge facing the Commission on Narcotic Drugs as the governing body of UNDCP is to continue its efforts to ensure the emergence of a greater sense of "ownership" of UNDCP, whereby Member States recognize that they are its "shareholders". This implies the responsibility to participate actively in its activities and to guarantee the availability of a predictable critical mass of resources to enable it to fulfil its mandates in an effective manner.

J. The opportunity of the special session of the General Assembly to be convened in June 1998

21. The special session of the General Assembly to be held in June 1998 will provide a unique opportunity to galvanize the support of Member States for international drug control and UNDCP. Of particular importance will be, in addition to its substantive outcome, the political declaration that Member States will adopt to reflect their strong commitment to drug control. On that occasion the international community must demonstrate its readiness to mobilize the resources needed to translate its commitment into action. The opportunity should not be missed for UNDCP to be provided with the financial and human resources required to initiate any new activities that the General Assembly may call on it to undertake.

II. REGIONAL AND COUNTRY-LEVEL ACTIVITIES

A. Africa

1. Activities at the regional level

22. Increased collaboration between Governments in the field of drug control is being promoted by using regional organizations as vehicles for fostering cooperation. Following the adoption by OAU in 1996 of the Plan of Action for Drug and Illicit Trafficking Control in Africa, UNDCP provided assistance to strengthen the capacity of the OAU secretariat in order to facilitate the application of the Plan of Action. UNDCP participated in the twentieth ordinary session of the OAU Labour and Social Affairs Commission, held at Addis Ababa from 7 to 11 April 1997, and in the thirty-third Assembly of Heads of State and Government of OAU, held at Harare from 26 to 30 May 1997, which endorsed four recommendations on drug control. On 19 September 1997, UNDCP and the OAU secretariat signed a project document aimed at strengthening the capacity of the OAU secretariat to coordinate the application of the Plan of Action by providing technical assistance.

23. Support to the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) has led to increased cooperation between their member States in applying their joint drug control strategies. UNDCP participated in the ECOWAS ministerial-level conference on drug control held at Praia from 5 to 9 May 1997, which reviewed the integration of drug control policies in national development plans and the harmonization of drug control laws and policies at the regional level. The subregional drug control action plan adopted by the 15 ministers attending the conference covered drug law enforcement measures, prevention, treatment, rehabilitation of drug abusers and strengthening of national drug control coordinating committees. UNDCP participated in the summit of ECOWAS heads of State or Government held at Abuja from 23 to 28 August 1997, which endorsed the drug control action plan. At the same summit, the heads of State and Government reasserted their commitment to give higher priority to drug control at the national level and to strengthen subregional cooperation.

24. UNDCP and SADC jointly convened a task force meeting at SADC headquarters at Gaborone from 1 to 3 October 1997. UNDCP assisted SADC member States in preparing a plan of action to apply the Protocol on Combating Illicit Drug Trafficking in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Region, adopted at Maseru on 24 August 1996.

25. UNDCP began the elaboration of a strategy to provide and coordinate assistance to sub-Saharan Africa for the period 1998-2001. Four key areas were identified for the strategy: information and analysis; advocacy to ensure that the drug problem was given greater priority at all levels; human and institutional capacity-building; and the development of operational partnerships. To support the elaboration of the strategy, UNDCP launched a study to examine a range of social, economic and political issues and their impact on trends

in illicit trafficking and drug abuse in sub-Saharan Africa. One of the main objectives of the exercise was to strengthen the empirical basis for future drug policy development in Africa.

26. To exploit synergies among UNDCP and specialized agencies and intergovernmental organizations, the Programme has undertaken joint activities with UNICEF, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the Centre for International Crime Prevention (CICP). UNDCP, CICP and ECOWAS jointly organized a workshop providing training to 33 examining magistrates, government prosecutors, judges and senior law enforcement officials in order to strengthen law enforcement and judicial cooperation among ECOWAS member States.

2. Activities at the country level

27. UNDCP provided legal assistance to 44 countries between 1990 and 1997, assisting in the drafting of drug control laws and regulations and in providing training for their application. To facilitate the undertaking of drug control initiatives at the national level, UNDCP assisted Governments in establishing national drug control coordinating bodies. That has been done in the 16 ECOWAS member States and in 10 of the 12 SADC member States.

28. To address the problem of drug trafficking, training, equipment and advisory services have been provided by UNDCP to the customs and law enforcement agencies of several countries, in collaboration with other organizations, such as the Customs Cooperation Council (also known as the World Customs Organization) and the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol). An evaluation of a UNDCP/World Customs Organization project for the strengthening of the capacities of customs services in eastern and southern Africa in the collection, analysis and exchange of intelligence concluded that it had contributed to generating information of particular strategic value to law enforcement agencies in the region and in improving inter-agency collaboration.

29. UNDCP has continued to promote the development of effective drug demand reduction strategies by Governments in Africa and the formulation of culturally appropriate programmes targeting high-risk groups. As knowledge of the extent of drug abuse in Africa is limited, UNDCP has assisted Governments in undertaking a number of rapid drug abuse assessment surveys. Rapid assessments have been completed in Cameroon, Egypt, Ethiopia and Kenya and UNDCP has provided ongoing assistance to Angola, Chad and the Congo in this regard. The drug assessments will strengthen the empirical knowledge base required to take action aimed at reducing drug abuse.

30. To increase public awareness and involve civil society in countering the drug problem, UNDCP has, since 1995, provided assistance to non-governmental organizations in eastern, southern and western Africa undertaking demand reduction activities. UNDCP provided grants to 10 non-governmental organizations, management training to the staff of 25 non-governmental organizations and advisory services and information to 149 non-governmental organizations in 14 countries in eastern and southern Africa.

31. UNDCP has exploited opportunities to integrate the issue of drug control in national socio-economic frameworks. In Nigeria, it supported the convening on 5 and 6 March 1997 of a national workshop under the theme "Women: Combating Drug Problems in Nigeria", in collaboration with the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency and the Federal Ministry of Women's Affairs and Social Development.

32. As part of its capacity-building initiatives, UNDCP funded the training of trainers and supported workshops and expert group meetings for professionals from various countries and professional backgrounds, including police and customs officers, magistrates, social workers, teachers and health-care professionals. From 7 to 18 July 1997, UNDCP organized a training seminar at Abidjan for law enforcement officers from western

Africa on drug law enforcement intelligence. In western Africa, a total of 23 training sessions have been held since November 1994 for 390 senior staff members from governmental and non-governmental organizations in ECOWAS member States. In eastern and southern Africa, some 100 law enforcement and customs officers have been trained in intelligence gathering, investigative techniques and legislation and court proceedings. To counter the smuggling of large consignments of cannabis and increasing amounts of cocaine out of northern Africa into Europe, UNDCP is helping Algeria and Tunisia to improve their interdiction capabilities by providing equipment and training to handlers of drug-scenting ("sniffer") dogs.

B. Central and south-west Asia

1. Activities at the regional level

33. As the production and manufacture of and trafficking in illicit drugs from Afghanistan pose a regional security threat, UNDCP initiated a programme to enhance law enforcement cooperation between States situated along the 5,000 kilometres of the Afghan border: Iran (Islamic Republic of), Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. Coordinated drug control activities, particularly those aimed at strengthening cross-border cooperation, are to contribute to stemming the flow of illicit opiates from Afghanistan, as well as the flow of precursors to that country. A new undertaking by UNDCP to strengthen the capacity of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) to coordinate drug control activities will also support this approach, as all the States concerned are ECO members.

34. UNDCP continued to support initiatives to strengthen drug law enforcement cooperation between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan, particularly along their common border. Since the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the two States and UNDCP in 1994, the collaborative activities undertaken have exceeded all expectations in terms of increased drug seizures.

35. Following the conclusion in 1996 of a memorandum of understanding, UNDCP launched, on 7 May 1997, a subregional law enforcement project involving Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. The project will strengthen law enforcement capacity and enhance cooperation among the agencies focusing on countering illicit drug trafficking along the major drug trafficking route, which leads from the borders of Afghanistan with central Asia to Khorog (Tajikistan), Osh (Kyrgyzstan) and Andizhan (Uzbekistan). In order to obtain reliable information on the extent of the illicit cultivation of the opium poppy and to assist Governments in elaborating appropriate countermeasures, a two-year project to map the area under illicit cultivation was initiated in the subregion in July 1997. The Government of the Russian Federation and the Aga Khan Development Network have requested to join a memorandum of understanding on subregional drug control cooperation signed by Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, together with UNDCP, in May 1996.

2. Activities at the country level

36. In central Asia, UNDCP has supported the efforts of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan in institution-building, strengthening national interdiction capacities and establishing national drug control structures. To reduce the illicit production of narcotic drugs, particularly heroin, in south-west Asia, activities to improve the control of precursors will be undertaken in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. To assist the Government of Turkmenistan in drafting national legislation to enable it to apply the international drug control treaties, UNDCP organized a training seminar at Ashkhabat from 20 to 21 May 1997 that was attended by high-ranking judges, prosecutors and law professors. Community-based development is being promoted under a multi-agency project in areas vulnerable to drug trafficking and in drug-producing areas in Kyrgyzstan. A joint UNDCP/CICP mission to Tajikistan, undertaken from 29 October to 12 November 1997, prepared a multisectoral programme for providing technical assistance to stem the flow of opium and heroin from Afghanistan.

37. UNDCP is supporting research undertaken at the Institute of Genetics and Plants and Experimental Biology of the Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan on the development of an environmentally safe and reliable biological control agent to be used to eradicate the illicit cultivation of the opium poppy. The agent concerned, the plant pathogenic fungus *Pleospora papaveracea*, is known to infect and kill the opium poppy.

38. Afghanistan has emerged as the world's largest producer of illicit opium and heroin. The 1997 UNDCP opium poppy survey in Afghanistan showed that the area under cultivation had increased marginally, by 2.8 per cent, to an estimated 58,400 hectares. Opium production, however, had increased by 25 per cent, to an estimated 2,800 tonnes, mainly due to an increased yield per hectare in most provinces. The total value of this production in local prices was estimated at US$94.6 million. In March 1997, UNDCP launched a four-year programme, valued at US$16.3 million, aimed at reducing illicit opium poppy cultivation in four key provinces, reducing drug abuse in the whole country, institution-building, countering illicit drug trafficking and establishing a monitoring capacity. The target communities and local authorities will be involved in the planning and implementation of activities, and the beneficiaries will be obliged to adhere to a phased ban on opium cultivation. The programme will build up the capacity of the provincial and central authorities to undertake drug control activities.

39. UNDCP re-established its presence in Afghanistan, mainly in Kabul, Nanghahar and Kandahar, and is in a position to provide direct support to drug control efforts. UNDCP is encouraging bilateral and multilateral agencies to coordinate the channelling of their assistance to opium-growing areas and to incorporate drug control elements into their own programmes.

40. UNDCP reached agreement with the Taliban in October 1997 on the priorities and targets to be achieved in 1998, as part of its conditionality policy according to which the enforcement of the ban on illicit cultivation of the opium poppy would be conditional to the provision of support to the affected local communities. As an example of the negotiated conditionalities with the Taliban, UNDCP has committed itself to reinstating the sub-station for electric power and refurbishing the existing wool factory in Kandahar, which went out of operation during the war with the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. UNDCP has succeeded in fully integrating the gender issue into this initiative, which will provide 200 women with employment outside their homes. This commitment to the integration of the gender principle in activities at the field level will be reflected in the programme of activities that UNDCP will initiate in four districts in Helmand, where it has set as a goal the elimination of 14,000 hectares of opium poppy by the year 2000. The programme will be launched in 1998, in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).

41. In 1992, at the peak of illicit poppy cultivation in Pakistan, over 9,400 hectares were under opium poppy cultivation. In 1997, a government survey in Pakistan showed that 879 hectares were under opium poppy cultivation, a decrease of 159 hectares, or 15.3 per cent, compared with 1996 or 90.7 per cent compared with 1992. Approximately 40 per cent of the area under cultivation was located in the Dir district, where UNDCP is undertaking alternative development activities. The extent of illicit cultivation in the Dir district has continuously dropped, from 3,670 hectares in 1992 to 474 hectares in 1996 and to 345 hectares in 1997. An independent evaluation team concluded that the UNDCP alternative development programme had contributed significantly to the reduction of opium poppy cultivation. It recommended that, as a matter of urgency, law enforcement action should be taken to ensure the elimination of opium poppy from the Dir district by 1998, a target date established by the Government of Pakistan.

C. South-east Asia and the Pacific

1. Activities at the regional level

42. Following the adoption of a subregional plan of action in 1995 by Cambodia, China, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam, UNDCP supported the formulation and application of the subregional projects outlined in the plan. Those States had signed a memorandum of understanding following continued efforts by UNDCP to foster regional cooperation in south-east Asia. UNDCP convened a ministerial meeting for the six countries at Bangkok from 8 to 11 July 1997 in order to further the application of the subregional plan of action for drug control cooperation in south-east Asia. The meeting, which was hosted by the Government of Thailand, addressed the upsurge of drug abuse and trafficking in heroin and stimulants, particularly amphetamine-type stimulants, in the subregion. The meeting endorsed three projects within the framework of the plan of action, covering activities in the fields of law enforcement, exchange of information and trafficking, and training for judicial and prosecutorial personnel.

43. Work has continued on other subregional projects, begun in 1992, to strengthen the drug control agencies of China, Myanmar and Thailand by providing transportation and telecommunications equipment and related training. The UNDCP regional office at Bangkok convened a workshop on drug law enforcement at Phnom Penh from 10 to 14 March 1997 for 24 participants from Cambodia, China, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam. The participants' recommendations included (a) ways to improve cooperation between law enforcement agencies at the operational level and (b) cooperation in the investigation and prosecution of drug trafficking offences. A third cross-border meeting of officials from China and Myanmar was held in September 1997. The improved cross-border cooperation resulted in a significant increase in seizures of opium, heroin and precursors and in arrests of drug traffickers. In December 1997, a cross-border workshop on precursor investigation techniques for 28 officials—14 from Myanmar and 14 from Thailand—also provided an opportunity to discuss drug trafficking trends and intelligence gathering. A total of 242 law enforcement officials from six countries in the subregion have received training in precursor control organized within the framework of the plan of action and have applied in their own countries what they learned in the training.

44. In 1997, UNDCP participated for the first time in the annual seminar on drug control for senior officials from member States of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN). The exchange of information and coordination of action in drug abuse and trafficking in the ASEAN member States were examined at the policy and operational levels at the seminar, which was held at Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam, from 19 to 22 August.

45. A project to reduce drug abuse in the highlands of east Asia, which began in 1996, has led to the implementation of community-based demand reduction and social development activities. In 1997, country-specific projects and pilot activities were initiated under the project.

46. At the subregional level, a project to develop institutional capacity in demand reduction among high-risk groups is being executed under a cost-sharing arrangement with UNDP. A programme carried out in collaboration with the University Sains Malaysia Centre for Drug Research has provided training in the rehabilitation of addicts for 63 core professionals and 100 community workers from selected Asian countries, including Bangladesh, India, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Viet Nam. The trainees replicated the training programme at the national level, and training material was produced for wider use in Asia.

47. UNDCP has provided technical assistance to the nine States of the South Pacific Forum in drafting legislation against money-laundering and related activities; it has also provided training in drug law enforcement

for senior customs and police officers. The low level of support provided by the international community to undertake drug control activities in the small, vulnerable island States remains a matter of concern to UNDCP.

2. Activities at the country level

48. Alternative development activities in Xieng Khouang province of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, close to the border with Viet Nam, have contributed to a decrease of 23 per cent in opium production compared with 1992, when the activities started. UNDCP intends to reduce opium production by an additional 90 per cent by the year 2002 and to reduce drug abuse significantly by providing treatment and rehabilitation to 50 per cent of drug abusers in the target area. To meet this objective, UNDCP is initiating, beginning in 1998, a joint United Nations alternative development programme at Nong Het, in Xieng Khouang province, in cooperation with UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, ILO and FAO.

49. To enable the management of national drug control efforts supported by bilateral and multilateral assistance, UNDCP supported the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic in strengthening national drug control coordinating agencies. The Lao commission for drug control and supervision was restructured and the national drug control master plan was adjusted. UNDCP convened a national training seminar for prosecutors and customs and police officers from 18 provinces in order to focus on the application of new drug control legislation, following the adherence of the Government to the international drug control treaties. A drug forensic laboratory, for which UNDCP had provided equipment and training, became operational in 1997. Based on the findings of a 1996 rapid assessment of drug abuse that showed high addiction rates among returning refugees, UNDCP assisted the Government and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in setting up a demand reduction programme for returning refugees. A national treatment and rehabilitation training centre was established in 1997.

50. UNDCP is supporting four demand reduction initiatives in Viet Nam, giving particular attention to strengthening the capacity of the Government to coordinate inter-agency efforts, particularly the involvement of other United Nations entities, non-governmental organizations and national institutions in drug control activities. A national drug control committee, chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister, has been established and UNDCP is providing training in the planning and coordination of drug control activities. UNDCP will be assisting the Government of Viet Nam in applying national drug control legislation, following the adherence of the Government to the international drug control treaties. In 1997, UNDCP successfully involved UNAIDS, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA, the World Health Organization (WHO), UNIDO, national institutions and non-governmental agencies applying an alternative development programme, targeting illicit cultivation of the opium poppy and institution-building in the Ky Son area. The five-year programme was initiated in 1997. A project to improve the mobility and communications capacities of the Vietnamese police and customs services and to enhance cooperation between the two services in drug investigations began in 1997.

51. In Myanmar, a 1994 national survey indicated that 33.6 per cent of the 55,488 registered abusers of drugs, mostly heroin, lived in Shan State and that 26.5 per cent lived in the mining areas in Kachin State, where drug abuse and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection were particularly prevalent because of the practice of injecting illicit drugs. To discourage the practice of injecting such drugs and other related high-risk behaviour, UNDCP, in cooperation with a non-governmental organization with experience in prevention programmes in the region, is supporting a programme in Kachin State to educate people and raise their awareness concerning drug abuse prevention.

52. The Wa area of north-eastern Myanmar is a major opium-producing area that borders on China, with which it has close cultural ties. In July 1997, China and Myanmar, together with UNDCP, agreed to an alternative development project valued at US$15 million that would be implemented during a five-year period. The complex undertaking has as its goals the elimination of illicit cultivation of the opium poppy in the Ho Tao sub-

area within the Wa area and the introduction of a deterrent to heroin traffickers operating along the border between China and Myanmar. The project consists in the following: participatory community development; the promotion of public health and the prevention of drug abuse and acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) infection; the development of infrastructure; the promotion of crop substitution and alternative income-generating activities; and the monitoring and verification of poppy cultivation in the entire Wa area. UNDCP is appealing to the donor community to provide financial support for efforts to eliminate the illicit cultivation of the opium poppy in this strategic region. In Myanmar, some 150 hectares of poppy were eradicated between 1993 and 1997 in 18 villages targeted in eastern Shan State, where UNDCP assisted farmers in developing alternative sources of income.

53. In Myanmar, a legal assistance workshop organized by UNDCP at Yangon from 24 to 25 April 1997 reviewed the status of application of national drug control legislation, particularly penal provisions on money-laundering, controlled delivery and mutual legal assistance, in order to ensure the stricter application of that legislation.

54. A community-based project in northern Thailand aimed at reducing drug abuse in 85 hill-tribe villages was completed in 1997. When the project started in 1995, 6 per cent of the population of 19,000 was addicted. In addition to providing treatment and rehabilitation services to a total of 412 people, the project resulted in the development of a curriculum and preventive education materials in five dialects for use in 76 information centres and schools among the villages. At a workshop on precursor control for the chemical industry, a memorandum of understanding for cooperation in precursor control involving the Government of Thailand and the chemical industry was signed.

55. Within the framework of the plan of action for south-east Asia, UNDCP supported Cambodia in improving its institutional and human resources capacity in drug control by providing legislative assistance and training for drug control officials. UNDCP is, however, reassessing its policy in Cambodia in view of the recent political developments and the serious problems encountered concerning corruption, crime and violence.

D. Latin America and the Caribbean

1. Activities at the regional level

56. The signatories of the 1996 memorandum of understanding on subregional drug control cooperation between Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Peru, Uruguay and UNDCP, initiated joint subregional programmes of cooperation to counter illicit drug trafficking and drug abuse. They launched joint programmes for training in drug abuse prevention and treatment, the rehabilitation of drug abusers, precursor control and investigation techniques, including techniques for investigating money-laundering. UNDCP supported the convening at La Paz of a training seminar on drug abuse prevention and community mobilization. Representatives from Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Peru and Uruguay attended the seminar, which was held from 28 July to 1 August 1997. Some 550 law enforcement officials, judges, prosecutors and other civil servants from Argentina, Bolivia, Chile and Peru have benefited from training aimed at strengthening national capacities in law enforcement. With regard to demand reduction, 160 professionals from government agencies and non-governmental organizations will be trained in research methodologies, including the collection and analysis of data, in order to establish a unified subregional system for monitoring drug abuse.

57. As follow-up to the Plan of Action for Drug Control Coordination and Cooperation in the Caribbean, adopted by the Regional Meeting on Drug Control Cooperation and Coordination, held at Bridgetown in May 1996, a technical assistance programme in drug control, valued at US$15 million, was launched. UNDCP assumed the coordinating functions under the Caribbean Drug Control Coordination Mechanism, which began operating in February 1997. The Coordination Mechanism will monitor the progress made in converting the

Plan of Action into concrete activities, will act as a clearing house, particularly for designing and monitoring specific priority programmes, and will promote the efficient allocation of technical assistance resources flowing into the subregion. UNDCP convened a meeting of the Coordination Mechanism at Bridgetown from 20 to 24 October 1997; the meeting reviewed the practical follow-up required to strengthen drug law enforcement, maritime cooperation, the process of harmonization of drug control legislation, measures to counter money-laundering, and demand reduction. The proposals of the Coordination Mechanism were endorsed by a ministerial meeting organized by UNDCP, with support from the European Commission, at Santo Domingo from 8 to 9 December 1997.

2. Activities at the country level

58. In Colombia, UNDCP continued to provide technical support in the field of drug abuse prevention. Assistance was provided to health services in 10 departments, 20 prisons and several vocational training institutions for drug abusers; in addition, drug addiction centres and drug abuse groups were established, guards were trained and epidemiological surveys were carried out. UNDCP support in the prevention sector targeted young people by establishing 21 youth centres, creating recreational and employment programmes for 10,000 youngsters and providing training to 300 community workers. The UNDCP intervention strategy, which is also aimed at establishing operational links and coordination between local and national initiatives, has led to the institutionalization by local and national authorities of past and present UNDCP-supported initiatives.

59. In Brazil, demand reduction activities focused on two main strategies: (a) drug abuse prevention for 6,000 intravenous drug users, with emphasis on AIDS prevention, in the form of training provided to 6,000 professionals working in the health and education sectors in 10 states, and elaboration and distribution of drug abuse prevention kits for teachers and students; and (b) drug abuse prevention in the workplace, that is, in more than 30 companies, reaching 24,000 workers by applying a proven model programme for the prevention of substance abuse among workers and families, a programme that had been developed by UNDCP, ILO and WHO. UNDCP, in cooperation with the Government of Brazil, organized an international seminar on drug abuse prevention from 15 to 17 October 1997, attended by 500 experts in different fields of drug control, including experts from neighbouring countries. The participants at the seminar recommended measures to mobilize the public and private sectors in order to facilitate the reintegration of drug abusers into society and the prevention of drug abuse among young people.

60. In the Caribbean, UNDCP support provided to education programmes resulted in the inclusion of drug prevention in school curricula and the promotion of awareness-raising activities for young people out of school. Ongoing integrated demand reduction programmes focusing on national capacity-building also included significant community and private sector contributions.

61. The elimination of the illicit cultivation of the coca bush through alternative development remains a cornerstone of UNDCP programmes in Peru. According to UNDCP estimates, 200,000 small farmers' families are involved in the illicit cultivation of the coca bush, in Peru, which covers 240,000 hectares. UNDCP is directly supporting local communities. After 12 years of intervention, UNDCP transferred to eight farmers' organizations and to the regional government project assets for alternative development assistance in the provinces of Convención and Yanatile, where approximately 12 per cent of the coca bush cultivation is estimated to take place. In the Huallaga valley, which accounts for 40 per cent of the illicit cultivation of coca bush, UNDCP has assisted seven farmers' organizations and some 4,000 farmers in consolidating alternative agro-industries and managerial capacities. Under the alternative development project in the Apurimac-Ene valley, where 15 per cent of the coca cultivation is estimated to occur, UNDCP has provided assistance to almost 2,000 farmers, leading to the introduction of integrated farming systems in areas where coca leaves used to be the only crop.

62. In Peru, UNDCP gave priority to strengthening the institutional capacity of Comisión de la Lucha contra el Consumo de Drogas (CONTRADROGAS)—the national drug control commission—and associated ministries. UNDCP provided support to the elaboration of the national plan for alternative development, drug abuse prevention and the rehabilitation of drug abusers. As follow-up to the plan, Peru included drug control, together with poverty alleviation and environmental protection, as a priority issue in the 1997 World Bank consultative group meeting.

63. According to official figures, coca bush cultivation in Bolivia covers 38,000 hectares, and approximately 28,000 hectares are classified by the Government as being under illicit cultivation. The Chapare area of Cochabamba accounts for 24,000 hectares of the total area under illicit cultivation and the Yungas area accounts for the remaining 4,000 hectares. An estimated 50,000 farmers' families depend on cultivation of the coca bush for their livelihood. UNDCP has continuously adjusted its alternative development activities. For the first time, it has included forestry among the economically sustainable income-generating activities aimed at illicit cultivation of the coca bush. Around 4,000 farmers are benefiting from support given by UNDCP to agroforestry activities that provide them with a steady increase in their income and contribute to the attainment of the target of reducing by 7,000 hectares the area under illicit cultivation.

64. UNDCP organized a subregional workshop on national strategies in alternative development in Cochabamba, Bolivia, from 16 to 18 September 1997, in order to review the coordination of alternative development activities and to consider the setting up of a regional centre for alternative development in the Andean subregion.

65. Early in 1997, UNDCP completed 12 years of alternative development activities in Colombia, which had provided support to 10,000 small farmers and their families, substituting crops in an area in which an estimated 5,400 hectares of coca bush had been illicitly cultivated. The alternative development approach and activities that UNDCP had initiated paved the way for the Government of Colombia to launch the National Alternative Development Plan (PLANTE). UNDCP has supported PLANTE in its institution-building efforts, enabling it to undertake programmes to eliminate the estimated 67,500 hectares of coca bush and 6,300 hectares of opium poppy under illicit cultivation. About 150,000 farmers and farm labourers are involved in the illicit cultivation of the coca bush; the figure for illicit poppy cultivation is 40,000.

66. UNDCP supported the Government of Colombia in strengthening the capacity of the office of the public prosecutor to analyse seized drugs and precursors through the establishment of seven forensic laboratories and the training of personnel. Future cooperation will cover training in drug and precursor control for police investigators, prosecutors and judges with a view to reducing the high rate of impunity in cases involving drug-related offences.

67. Ecuador is being used as a transit State by persons trafficking in illicit drugs and precursors. UNDCP supported the convening of a national precursor control workshop as part of a series of training events planned for law enforcement officials. UNDCP organized a series of cross-border cooperation meetings between the law enforcement agencies of Colombia and Ecuador. The meeting provided training for police and customs officers in surveillance and intelligence-gathering techniques, the handling of undercover agents and controlled delivery.

E. Europe and the Middle East

1. Activities at the regional level

68. As follow-up to a memorandum of understanding signed at Prague in 1995, UNDCP provided support to Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia through a framework provided by the Subregional Drug Control Cooperation Programme. A project to strengthen cross-border cooperation among drug law

enforcement agencies in central Europe was initiated. In cooperation with the Pompidou Group of the Council of Europe, UNDCP assisted central European countries in conducting drug abuse surveys, designing effective demand reduction strategies and providing training for health-care professionals.

69. UNDCP cooperated closely with the European Commission in its drug control initiatives, such as the high-level missions of the European Commission to Belarus, the Republic of Moldova and countries in central Asia.

70. At the invitation of the South-east European Cooperation Initiative (SECI), established under the auspices of the Economic Commission for Europe, UNDCP contributed to the work of the project group on border crossing facilitation. The Programme has proposed a drug enforcement module for inclusion into the SECI border crossing project to ensure that trade facilitation measures do not provide new opportunities to drug traffickers.

71. In the Baltic States (Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania), UNDCP promoted cross-border cooperation through training workshops organized to enhance the impact of country-level projects in drug control. The objectives were to upgrade drug interdiction capacities and to promote the application of drug laws and regular exchanges of intelligence in order to further inter-agency cooperation in combating illicit drug trafficking and organized crime. In February 1997, UNDCP convened a regional demand reduction workshop for 30 doctors and educators engaged in demand reduction activities at Riga, in order to prepare national demand reduction programmes. From 15 to 16 July 1997, UNDCP organized a master plan workshop at Trakai, Lithuania, for 28 delegates from the Baltic States. Outlines of national drug control master plans were prepared on that occasion.

2. Activities at the country level

72. Expert advice and training were provided to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria and Croatia in order to strengthen their drug law enforcement capacity, the objective being to create in each country a corps of trained drug law enforcement professionals. UNDCP coordinated drug-related training provided in the context of the law enforcement programme of the International Police Task Force in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Over 700 police officers from Bosnia and Herzegovina have been trained in the identification of illicit drugs. In 1998, assistance will be extended to law enforcement agencies in Albania and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

73. UNDCP supported the Government of Turkey in developing a balanced drug control programme. A national framework for inter-agency coordination was set up, guidelines were prepared for a new customs control concept and support was given for developing national capacity in training drug-scenting dogs. UNDCP made use of the expertise of Turkish authorities in providing specialized training for 25 police officers from central Asian countries.

74. To prevent an escalation of illicit drug trafficking to the west through the transcaucasian subregion, UNDCP is undertaking a multisectoral programme of activities in Azerbaijan that is focused on enhancing law enforcement capacities, addressing demand reduction and institution-building. A more efficient government apparatus to deal with drug control and organized crime has emerged as a result of training provided to law enforcement personnel. Similar support will be provided to Armenia and Georgia in order to promote drug control activities and cooperation at the subregional level.

75. To address the issue of increased drug trafficking through the Russian Federation, UNDCP organized, jointly with the Government of the Russian Federation, the International Conference on Drug Control Cooperation with the Russian Federation. The Conference, which was held in Moscow from 16 to 17 April 1997, highlighted the magnitude of the drug problem facing the Russian Federation, the firm commitment of the Government and the support of the international community in assisting in the application

of the federal drug control programme. The field office that UNDCP will open in Moscow will be instrumental in coordinating such multilateral and bilateral assistance.

76. A two-year multisectoral programme of assistance to the Palestinian Authority will increase the interdiction capacities of law enforcement services, promote drug abuse awareness and enhance existing rehabilitation and treatment services. In 1997, UNDCP trained two Palestinian police chemists in drug analysis and identification. It is envisaged that the law enforcement training component of the programme will be implemented by the Anti-Narcotics General Administration of Egypt, serving as a first step in subregional cooperation in drug control.

77. Implementation of the second phase of the Baalbek-Hermel integrated area development programme in Lebanon began in 1997. During the first phase, illicit opium poppy cultivation, which had peaked at 2,000-3,500 hectares in the early 1990s, was totally eliminated as a result of the strong support of the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic. The second phase focuses on the consolidation of activities in the social and health sectors and the promotion of drug abuse awareness and prevention.

F. Master plans

78. UNDCP continued to provide assistance to Member States in the development and implementation of comprehensive drug control master plans, encouraging national "ownership" of the programmes and promoting capacity-building. In Africa, UNDCP assisted the Governments of Cape Verde, Kenya and Zambia in the preparation of master plans. In Asia, UNDCP assisted Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan in preparing or completing their national drug control plans. In the Pacific, Fiji, Micronesia (Federated States of), Papua New Guinea and Samoa initiated the preparation of a master plan to be completed in 1998. All three Baltic States benefited from a joint master plan workshop conducted by UNDCP. In Latin America and the Caribbean, UNDCP assisted Belize, Bolivia, Dominica, El Salvador, Granada, Nicaragua, Panama and Saint Kitts and Nevis in updating or completing their national drug control plans.

III. GLOBAL ACTIVITIES

A. Treaty adherence

79. The international drug control treaties have been adhered to by the international community. In 1997, Lebanon, Kazakhstan and Tajikistan became parties to the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol,[2] bringing the number of parties to that Convention to 145. Austria, Oman, Tajikistan and Kazakhstan became parties to the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971,[3] bringing the number of parties to that Convention to 152. And Austria, Benin, Iceland, Kazakhstan and Lao People's Democratic Republic became parties to the 1988 Convention, bringing the number of parties to that Convention to 142.

80. UNDCP finalized the legal commentary on the 1988 Convention, prepared pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1993/42 of 27 July 1993.

81. As at 31 October 1997, UNDCP had analysed 93 annual reports of Governments on the working of the international drug control treaties. The information was used in preparing country profiles and in updating the following two annual publications: *Competent National Authorities under the International Drug Control Treaties*, and *Manufacture of Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Their Precursors*.

82. UNDCP provided assistance to Governments to enable the effective application of the international drug control treaties. It provided assistance to 31 countries, including Armenia, Bangladesh, Croatia, Czech Republic, Gambia, Haiti, India, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mali, Nepal, Slovakia, Swaziland, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Venezuela and Zambia. UNDCP finalized comprehensive model legislation for common-law countries, an undertaking that had begun in December 1996, and initiated the preparation of procedural guidelines. During their meeting in May 1997, the interior ministers of Governments of the Central European Initiative, representing such countries as Albania, Austria, Belarus, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Italy, Poland, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine and Yugoslavia, selected as their reference legislation the model legislation for civil-law countries prepared by UNDCP. Those efforts will contribute to more closely harmonized drug-related legislation and practices.

83. UNDCP made substantive contributions to numerous regional and international legal workshops and conferences in 1997 to assist and provide guidance to Governments regarding the practical application of the international drug control treaties, including the following: the Crans Montana Forum seminar on corruption and money-laundering, held at Bucharest on 22 March; the seminar on anti-corruption strategies for central and eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States, organized at Budapest by the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute from 7 to 12 April; the third annual training conference of the National Association of Drug Court Professionals, held at Los Angeles from 13 to 17 May; the seminar on legislative and institutional support against money-laundering, held at Bratislava on 29 May; the second Hassela Nordic network international conference, held at Stockholm from 9 to 12 June; and the third annual meeting of the International Association of Prosecutors, held at Ottawa from 2 to 6 September.

84. UNDCP, together with the Indian Law Institute and the International Law Association, organized the International Conference on Global Drugs Law at New Delhi from 28 February to 3 March 1997. The Conference agreed on a series of recommendations, including recommendations on practical measures to improve mutual legal assistance and extradition for serious drug-related offences, on overcoming obstacles to the investigation of money-laundering and the confiscation of assets derived from drug trafficking and on reducing the incidents of corruption and its impact on the efficacy of law enforcement.

85. UNDCP and CICP undertook joint missions to Haiti and Romania and cooperated in the preparation of model laws on corruption and extradition. Together they organized legal workshops in India and in Senegal for ECOWAS member States.

1. Maritime cooperation

86. UNDCP continued its efforts to promote regional and international cooperation in combating illicit drug trafficking by sea, in line with article 17 of the 1988 Convention. It began executing a pilot project for the development of a UNDCP training guide for boarding officers and legislative and procedural guidelines for effective maritime law enforcement. An expert group meeting was held at Vienna from 27 to 29 January 1997 to finalize a training manual and practical guidelines for use by Governments in countering illicit drug trafficking by sea. The UNDCP Asia-Pacific Training Seminar on Maritime Drug Law Enforcement was held at Yokohama, Japan, from 27 to 31 October 1997. The UNDCP training guide for boarding officers was endorsed by the participants at the Seminar. Representatives from Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, India, Japan, Malaysia, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Thailand, United Kingdom, United States of America and Viet Nam attended the Seminar. Their recommendations included a request for UNDCP to establish an informal regional correspondence group to facilitate the exchange of information on maritime drug law enforcement among countries in the region. In 1998, UNDCP will continue to prepare legislative and procedural guidelines for maritime law enforcement.

2. Preparation for the special session of the General Assembly

87. In 1997, UNDCP provided substantive and administrative services to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its fortieth session and at its reconvened fortieth session, at which the Commission adopted the budget of the Programme. UNDCP also serviced three open-ended inter-sessional meetings of the Commission acting as preparatory body for the special session of the General Assembly to be held in June 1998. The meetings reviewed: (a) measures to counter the illicit manufacture of, traffic in and abuse of stimulants; (b) recommendations to enhance the control and monitoring of precursors frequently used in the manufacture of illicit drugs; (c) measures to promote judicial cooperation and to counter money-laundering; (d) a strategy for the elimination of illicit narcotic crops and the promotion of alternative development programmes; and (e) elements of a draft political declaration to be adopted by the General Assembly at its special session. UNDCP also organized the meeting of the intergovernmental working group to review and advance work on the draft declaration on the guiding principles of reduction of illicit demand for drugs, held at Vienna from 13 to 17 October 1997.

3. UNDCP support to the International Narcotics Control Board

88. As the substantive secretariat of the International Narcotics Control Board, UNDCP provided support to the Board in monitoring the application of the international drug control treaties and the preparation and launching of its annual report for 1997, which involved the UNDCP network of field offices. UNDCP also supported the preparation of the technical publications of the Board.

89. An assessment of the performance of UNDCP in providing secretariat functions to the Board concluded that the work of the secretariat had ensured the effective functioning of the Board. Through its secretariat, the Board assisted Governments in establishing and utilizing the necessary control systems to prevent the diversion of large quantities of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursors. For example, over 250 tonnes of ephedrine and pseudoephedrine, with a potential for the illicit manufacture of 160 tonnes of methamphetamine, were prevented from being diverted into the illicit traffic. The review also highlighted the need for UNDCP to continue and further develop its current work in precursor control.

90. In 1997, UNDCP supported regional training, initiated by the Board, of national drug control administrators in the requirements of the international drug control treaties. The training provided to national drug control administrators facilitates compliance with the reporting requirements of the international drug control treaties, contributes to strengthening cooperation between national drug control administrators and promotes the exchange of information within the region and with the Board. A regional seminar for national drug control administrators from the Pacific island States, held at Sydney, Australia, from 16 to 20 June 1997, was attended by 28 officials from Australia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, New Zealand, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. A training seminar for national drug control administrators from English-speaking countries of the Caribbean was held at San Juan, Puerto Rico, from 1 to 5 December 1997, in cooperation with the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD). Training was provided to officials from Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, British Virgin Islands, Canada, Cayman Islands, Dominica, Grenada, Jamaica, Netherlands Antilles, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Turks and Caicos Islands and United States.

91. UNDCP supported the Board in convening the Meeting on Information Exchange Systems for Precursor Control at Vienna from 30 June to 4 July 1997. The Meeting, which was attended by representatives from 37 countries that were major exporters or importers, or used as transit points, agreed on a series of practical arrangements to enhance controls. Those arrangements will be monitored by the secretariat of the Board.

92. The secretariat of the Board and the UNDCP Laboratory prepared a provisional list of non-scheduled substances used in the manufacture of illicit drugs for possible inclusion in the limited international special surveillance list of chemicals to be established pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/29, section I, of 23 July 1996. With the assistance of its advisory expert group, the Board will establish the special surveillance list, determine the specific function of the list and formulate specific monitoring measures in connection with the substances included in the list.

93. The Board has continued to work closely with UNDCP on precursor control projects in central, south, south-east and south-west Asia in order to help to set up control and cooperation mechanisms and procedures at the regional level It has also been consulted on and has contributed substantively to the development of a project aimed at enhancing precursor controls in central Asia and to a global programme to strengthen relevant law enforcement capacity. The Board, through its secretariat, participated in a regional seminar to increase cooperation aimed at improving precursor control in the Middle East, convened by the World Customs Organization at Antalya, Turkey, from 17 to 21 November 1997.

B. Demand reduction: the indispensable drug control pillar

94. UNDCP completed the revision of the annual reports questionnaire, which focuses on key indicators of the prevalence, patterns and trends of drug abuse, as well as mortality and morbidity rates. A meeting of experts on methods of providing information support to international drug programmes was held at Vienna from 20 to 22 October 1997. The meeting, which was attended by experts from regional epidemiological networks, provided advice on the revised questionnaire. The revised questionnaire will be submitted to the Commission at its forty-second session for its consideration. UNDCP has continued to undertake studies aimed at collecting qualitative information on the behaviour of drug abusers and on the risk and protective factors associated with drug abuse.

95. UNDCP completed a cycle of nine regional demand reduction forums that began in 1993. The forums were to foster the regular exchange of information, innovative experiences and methodologies on demand reduction. Eleven countries from the Persian Gulf area were represented at a regional meeting, held at Abu Dhabi from 2 to 4 March 1997, that dealt with the harmonization of data collection systems and the role of social, cultural and religious institutions and the media in the prevention of drug abuse.

96. UNDCP initiated preparations for a "youth event" to be held in Canada from 14 to 18 April 1998, in collaboration with two Canadian organizations and the Governments of Canada, Italy, Norway and Sweden. The meeting is expected to result in the creation of a global network of innovative youth programmes. Other expected results of the meeting will be a handbook providing guidelines for designing prevention programmes for young people and a set of recommendations to be submitted to the General Assembly at its special session in June 1998. A similar international youth consultation, jointly organized by UNDCP and UNESCO, will be held in Paris on 10 February 1998.

97. Efforts to promote standards of good practice at the international level will be strengthened by the joint WHO/UNDCP Global Initiative on Primary Prevention of Substance Abuse, valued at US$5 million. The Global Initiative will be aimed at mobilizing local communities to prevent drug abuse among young people. It will be undertaken in close collaboration with an international consortium of non-governmental organizations working with local communities in southern Africa, south-east Asia and eastern Europe. The objective will be to develop, on the basis of a solid knowledge base that will be made available to Governments, non-governmental organizations and grass-roots organizations, approaches and strategies to promote cost-effective community-based prevention and treatment of drug abuse and rehabilitation of drug abusers, particularly among young people.

98. With the launching of the Alliance of Resource Managers against Drug Abuse (ARMADA), UNDCP, ILO and WHO have recently concluded a global project on model programmes for drug abuse prevention in the community and the workplace. As an independent and managers-led association, ARMADA will advocate the adoption of prevention policies in the workplace. About 250,000 employees from 43 companies in five countries have been reached by the pilot project, which has demonstrated that it pays to introduce drug abuse prevention in the workplace. One of the participating companies in Mexico reported that, following the application of the prevention programme, absenteeism dropped from 7 per cent to 3.7 per cent and the accident rate also fell, while productivity and quality of output increased. The model is being disseminated in the various regions through a series of international conferences for the private sector.

99. UNDCP, UNAIDS, UNICEF, UNFPA and WHO launched a project involving 11 countries that focused on the prevention and reduction of drug abuse as part of a comprehensive approach to improving the health and development opportunities of young people living in situations of particular vulnerability. This broad multi-agency initiative is a necessity as an increasing number of children are currently not covered by health and social service programmes and are at serious risk of becoming victims of violence, contracting sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV, or becoming involved in illicit trafficking and drug abuse. In a programme targeting similar groups of children and young people, UNAIDS and UNDCP are training 900 street educators in drug abuse prevention programmes tailored to young children. Approximately 15,000 street children will be reached through this project, which is aimed at helping children to develop skills needed to cope with difficult situations and to increase their ability to resist becoming involved in drug abuse.

C. Supply reduction

1. Alternative development

100. Alternative development is the main instrument used by UNDCP in its supply reduction strategy. UNDCP held two meetings, in June and October 1997, with its regional advisers and chief technical advisers involved at the field level in key alternative development projects. The meetings have strengthened linkages between the planning and delivery of technical assistance and have contributed to an evaluation of the feasibility of developing a global strategy to eliminate the illicit cultivation of the opium poppy and the coca bush. UNDCP will be publishing a guide on alternative development in the Andean subregion that will provide an overview of factors necessary for the design and implementation of alternative development projects and programmes at both the national and regional levels.

101. Policy development for alternative development has resulted in new directions for UNDCP: the improvement of the empirical database on illicit cultivation and the further refinement of approaches and methodologies. UNDCP convened a panel of experts at Vienna from 1 to 2 September 1997 to review recommendations elaborated in 1992 on environmentally safe methods for the eradication of narcotic plants. The revised recommendations took into consideration the significant advances in research and development in the previous five years. The experts called for an assessment of the environmental impact of proposed eradication methods using modern approaches approved by the major international pesticide regulatory authorities.

102. UNDCP will be spearheading the United Nations initiative to eliminate the illicit cultivation of the opium poppy and the coca bush worldwide. The initiative will rely on the vast field experience of UNDCP, particularly its in-depth knowledge and understanding of the dynamics of alternative development, and on its long-established partnership with the key countries affected by illicit cultivation, which will enable it to function as a catalyst and a coordinator. UNDCP is currently undertaking an in-depth assessment of past efforts in the field of alternative development. The initiative will avoid the piecemeal approach followed in previous eradication efforts. It is expected that a critical mass of resources will be needed to make an impact at the local, national

and regional levels. A system for monitoring the extent of illicit cultivation will be established to assess the impact of eradication efforts. This is essential in order to ensure that success in eliminating illicit cultivation in a targeted part of a country or region does not result in that cultivation shifting to other parts, an aspect that was neglected too often in the past.

103. The execution of the United Nations initiative will require careful planning and a flexible approach, based on the provision of incentives through alternative development programmes and sanctions through law enforcement action. It will also involve the use of the best technologies, combining remote sensing, aerial and ground surveys. Its successful application hinges on a long-term financial and political commitment by national and local communities and the provision of a coordinated programme of technical assistance based on a clear division of labour between UNDCP, other United Nations entities, the international financial institutions and multilateral and bilateral agencies.

2. Suppression of illicit drug trafficking

104. In 1997, UNDCP provided advisory services and technical assistance to support Governments in their efforts to suppress illicit drug trafficking. The law enforcement programmes covered, *inter alia*, the development of regional law enforcement information schemes, specific cross-border cooperation measures, the strengthening of land borders and seaports and improvements in the implementation of measures to counter illicit trafficking in precursors.

105. In 1997, UNDCP initiated a process to revitalize the meetings of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies (HONLEA) and to enable them to become more action-oriented, attending to the practical needs of law enforcement agencies at the national, subregional and regional levels. HONLEA meetings have become more responsive to emerging trends. UNDCP convened the Eighth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean, at Buenos Aires from 29 September to 3 October 1997. The Meeting, which was hosted by the Government of Argentina, examined measures to counter illicit drug trafficking in synthetic drugs, strategies for dismantling drug trafficking organizations, the use of controlled delivery and the handling of drug informants and undercover agents. The Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East, at its thirty-second session, held at Baku from 17 to 21 March 1997, adopted the Baku Accord on Regional Cooperation against Illicit Cultivation, Production, Trafficking, Distribution and Consumption of Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Their Precursors.

106. UNDCP initiated action to resume publication of the United Nations drug law enforcement training calendar, which contains information provided by international law enforcement organizations and Member States. Reintroducing the publication will facilitate the provision of international drug-related training assistance, reduce duplication of effort and identify areas that have received too much or too little emphasis.

107. UNDCP, Interpol and the World Customs Organization continued to consolidate and share their data concerning individual seizures of illicit drugs, an initiative that is to be completed in 1998. The increasingly harmonious and productive relationship between the three organizations and their common commitment to produce an agreed and more accurate set of figures should pave the way for future collaborative efforts to prepare high-quality strategic analyses. The initiative will enable UNDCP to build up its capacity to produce periodic analytical reports on trends in illicit drug trafficking and to provide comprehensive, reliable information to Member States.

108. UNDCP established operational working links with Europol, the European police force. It made two presentations to a meeting organized by the Spanish National Criminal Intelligence Service and Europol on

approaches to combating drug trafficking by Latin American criminal organizations. The meeting was held at Valencia, Spain, from 16 to 17 September 1997.

3. Money-laundering

109. To attack the financial base of drug trafficking organizations, UNDCP assisted Governments in taking action against money-laundering and in ensuring the confiscation of assets derived from drug trafficking, in line with the provisions of the 1988 Convention. UNDCP launched, jointly with CICP, a global programme against money-laundering, aimed at assisting Governments in countering such activity. To enhance awareness-raising and the provision of technical assistance in countering money-laundering, UNDCP strengthened its cooperation with partners such as Interpol, Europol, the European Commission, CICAD, the Commonwealth, the Egmont Group and the Financial Action Task Force established by the heads of State or Government of the Group of Seven major industrialized countries and the President of the European Commission. Expertise in money-laundering will be enhanced with a view to expanding the scope and content of the assistance provided to Member States. Particular emphasis will be given to improving the investigative capacity of Governments. To overcome obstacles to international cooperation in this field, two studies, one on bank secrecy and the other on the role of offshore centres in providing secure havens for illicit profits derived from drug trafficking and organized criminal activities, will be presented to the General Assembly at its special session in June 1998.

110. In 1997, assistance in countering money-laundering was provided to Haiti, Jordan, Venezuela, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan. A seminar held at Abidjan in December 1997 for western African States, contributed to efforts to raise awareness of the problems caused by money-laundering, such as the fact that it can impede development. A study on the reversal of the onus of proof in legal proceedings involving money-laundering offences and a training manual for financial investigations were initiated.

D. Research and science

111. In 1997, UNDCP strengthened its role as the international reference point for experts on the drug issue, acting as a catalyst for action by Member States in the identification of emerging trends and the development of policies and programmes to deal with them. Recommendations concerning the problem of amphetamine-type stimulants, based on proposals presented by UNDCP to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, will be submitted to the General Assembly at its special session in June 1998.

112. In 1997, UNDCP, on the occasion of the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, 26 June, issued the first *World Drug Report*, which provided a comprehensive overview of globally aggregated data on the nature and scope of illicit drug production, trafficking and consumption. The *Report* received positive media coverage throughout the world. UNDCP initiated preparations for the second edition of the *Report* to be published in 1999, which will present priority issues in drug control, will help to project the positive message that the drug problem can be successfully curtailed and will share UNDCP success stories. UNDCP continued to disseminate studies prepared by its staff members as part of its technical series. Among those studies was one entitled *Economic and Social Consequences of Illicit Drug Trafficking and Abuse*, which quantified the economic and social impact of illicit drug production, trafficking and abuse.

113. In 1997, UNDCP continued to strengthen its relationship with research organizations throughout the world and widened its network of collaborating institutions. It launched an initiative with the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research that will strengthen social research capacities in various countries in eastern Europe. UNDCP initiated the preparation of a major study on the illicit drug situation in Africa, aimed at strengthening the empirical basis for future drug policy development in that region.

114. Successful prosecution for drug trafficking offences is dependent, *inter alia*, on the availability of quality evidence. Forensic analysis provides the essential basis for this. UNDCP developed, as a matter of priority, international standards and expertise in drug testing and enhanced the capabilities of Member States in that field. It promoted close collaboration between laboratory services, law enforcement, the judiciary and health authorities. In 1997, two manuals for use by national laboratories were published by UNDCP: *Recommended Methods for the Detection and Assay of Barbiturates and Benzodiazepines in Biological Specimens* and *Recommended Methods for Testing Opium, Morphine and Heroin*. In addition, a manual for use by law enforcement agencies and national narcotics laboratories, entitled *Clandestine Manufacture of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances*, was updated and published. An expert group meeting, held at Barcelona, Spain, from 24 to 28 November 1997, reviewed the use of matrices, other than urine and blood, for the detection and assay of drugs and recommended guidelines for the use of matrices such as hair and saliva.

115. The UNDCP Laboratory prepared syllabuses and curricula for use in its training programme aimed at developing expertise in drug testing. Training in testing methods for the identification and analysis of drugs of abuse was provided to 36 analysts at UNDCP headquarters, regional training centres and collaborative institutions. Workshops were held for heads of national drug-testing laboratories from the Baltic States and countries in central and south-east Asia (at Riga) and from countries in Latin America (at Mexico City). UNDCP cooperated with the Commonwealth Secretariat in organizing and financing an expert group meeting on forensic evidence in drug cases in Caribbean countries with a common-law tradition, attended by police officers, analysts and prosecutors; the meeting, which was hosted by the Government of Saint Lucia, was held at Castries from 14 to 18 April 1997. The experts recommended the simplification of procedures for the handling and analysis of drug evidence.

116. The UNDCP Laboratory is implementing an international quality assurance programme, including collaborative exercises aimed at evaluating the individual performance of about 100 national drug-testing laboratories. Through various projects, assistance was provided to 39 laboratories in 29 countries in central Europe, central Asia and the Caucasus. National law enforcement authorities were assisted in the identification of seized illicit drugs and precursors through the provision of 370 kits for testing illicit drugs and 38 kits for testing precursors.

117. The UNDCP Laboratory initiated experimental work to develop harmonized protocols for the impurity profiling of key narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, concentrating initially on methamphetamine. That resulted in the collection of 50 samples of methamphetamine seized in seven countries, the identification of more than 100 impurities described in the literature and the collection of 40 reference standards of those impurities.

118. UNDCP developed an electronic communications and data exchange system, integrating input from national, regional and international sources to facilitate the linkage, retrieval and dissemination of information on narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursors. Twenty-five countries have been integrated in a computerized multilingual information system to be used by Governments to monitor the licit movement of drugs, thereby facilitating the application of control measures and the electronic reporting of statistical data to the International Narcotics Control Board.

E. Inter-agency cooperation and advocacy

119. In 1997, UNDCP maintained its momentum in mobilizing the United Nations system through inter-agency cooperation. At the field level, UNDCP succeeded in integrating drug control as a component in the programmes and activities of other United Nations entities. In 1997, 40 per cent of allocations from the Fund of UNDCP for project execution were made to 14 United Nations system partners as executing or associated

agencies. In 1998, their share of project execution is expected to increase by 10 per cent in central and eastern Europe and by 5 per cent in eastern Africa and in the Pacific.

120. On 11 April 1997, UNDCP and UNDP signed, at Geneva, a revised working arrangement regarding representation at the field level, modelled on arrangements worked out between UNDP and UNFPA. It affirmed that the senior UNDCP staff member at the country level would be the UNDCP representative and that, in countries where UNDCP did not have an office, the UNDP Resident Coordinator would continue to act as the UNDCP representative. In February 1997, UNDCP held a two-day consultation at Vienna with the United Nations Volunteers (UNV). The consultations considered how to make better use of UNV in UNDCP activities, given the decision of UNV to include illicit drugs as a priority thematic issue during its next programming cycle. At its meeting held at Vienna from 29 September to 1 October 1997, in which 11 agencies participated, the ACC Subcommittee on Drug Control considered inter-agency support in the preparations for the special session of the General Assembly to be held in 1998 and the finalization of the United Nations System-Wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control, which will serve as an instrument to enhance inter-agency cooperation in drug control. The Subcommittee decided to devote its meeting in 1998 to inter-agency collaboration in drug control at the field level.

121. UNDCP intensified its efforts to strengthen cooperation with the international financial institutions, in particular the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank. The Executive Director of UNDCP had working sessions with the President of the World Bank, the Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund and the President of the Inter-American Development Bank. Working-level missions were undertaken to the Inter-American Development Bank and the Asian Development Bank. On 26 May 1997, UNDCP signed a memorandum of understanding with the Aga Khan Development Network, which pledged support to the Fund of UNDCP, particularly for programmes in central Asia and eastern Africa. At the political level, the Executive Director initiated consultations with representatives of the Group of 77 in New York and Vienna aimed at involving it in the fight against illicit drugs and involving its members in the preparations for the special session of the General Assembly to be held in June 1998.

122. To ensure broad-based support for drug control objectives, UNDCP has sought to mobilize civil society. As part of its continued efforts to sensitize the private sector to drug abuse control, UNDCP, together with ILO and the Malaysian National Association for Prevention of Drugs, organized the third private sector conference at Petaling, Malaysia, from 3 to 6 October 1996. It was attended by 150 representatives from the business sector, trade unions and local communities.

123. UNDCP is actively participating in the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, which involves close cooperation at the field level with UNDCP partners in the United Nations system. The Framework will be used by UNDCP as a vehicle for furthering its efforts to integrate drug control input into the programmes and activities of other United Nations entities.

IV. PROJECT AND THEMATIC EVALUATIONS

124. In 1997, UNDCP strengthened its evaluation process with the introduction of improved monitoring and reporting procedures. The first annual report on evaluation, issued in February 1997, covered project evaluations conducted in 1996.

125. In 1997, 25 projects funded by UNDCP, covering control measures, demand and supply reduction and multisectoral activities, were evaluated. Project design was found to be sound, logical and coherent. The impact on drug control was assessed to be consonant with the project objectives.

126. Four thematic evaluations were conducted in 1997. The first assessed the long-term impact of alternative development activities carried out by UNDCP in the period 1984-1995 to reduce illicit cultivation of the coca bush in Peru. It strongly endorsed the policy direction of UNDCP in that field and concluded that alternative development had contributed to a significant reduction in the area under coca cultivation. Minimal conditions for conducting alternative development were identified and it was recommended that UNDCP should continue to engage in alternative development and to demonstrate viable strategies.

127. The second evaluation considered the effectiveness of current arrangements for the management of human resources of UNDCP, particularly its selection, recruitment and career development. It was recommended that the responsibility for the management of UNDCP staff should be fully delegated to UNDCP and that most of the functions and resources should be transferred from the United Nations Office at Vienna to UNDCP; however, the United Nations Office at Vienna should continue to be entrusted with the administration of UNDCP personnel. A third evaluation reviewed the impact of UNDCP activities in the drug laboratory sector. It concluded that the work of the UNDCP Laboratory was a valuable asset to UNDCP and Member States. It was recommended that service should be strengthened to enhance its capacity to support Member States. The fourth evaluation considered UNDCP activities in the law enforcement sector and assessed its relevance, outcome and impact. The report will be finalized early in 1998.

V. ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

A. Administration

128. To increase both the effectiveness of programme delivery and the rate of programme implementation, the responsibility and authority for programme development and management are being decentralized, moved away from UNDCP headquarters and towards the country level. Staff and financial resources are being redeployed to the field as an integral part of this decentralization. The organizational structure of UNDCP headquarters has been streamlined by abolishing administrative layers, decreasing the number of senior positions at UNDCP headquarters, rationalizing reporting and simplifying internal procedures, particularly in relation to programme and project approval, monitoring and reporting. New regional offices are being opened in the Russian Federation and South Africa and a country office is being opened in Viet Nam, a further reflection of the decentralization of activities. The decentralization is being balanced by a corresponding strengthening of the managerial and control functions of UNDCP headquarters.

129. A new format and methodology has been introduced in the budget for the biennium 1998-1999 of the Fund at UNDCP. The budget presentation is based on the harmonized model used by other United Nations programmes, including UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF, while retaining important features of the previous format, including comparability with the regular budget of the United Nations and budgeting by work plan output. The new methodology provides greater transparency and facilitates comparison of the budgetary proposals of UNDCP with those of other United Nations programmes.

130. A personnel policy has been introduced concerning appointments for staff whose appointments are limited to UNDCP. The policy provides staff with a more competitive contractual status while taking fully into account the need to limit the liability of the Fund of UNDCP. Another policy has been introduced to achieve a unified structure of appointments of all staff encumbering posts established in the biennial support budget.

B. Financial status

131. At is reconvened fortieth session, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs approved the budget of UNDCP for the biennium 1998-1999. It includes the approved initial biennial support budget for the Fund of UNDCP,

amounting to US$34,292,200, the programme budget for the Fund, amounting to US$110,502,000, and the budget for international drug control under the regular budget of the United Nations, which provides an additional US$16,372,000. The programme budget for the Fund, amounting to US$110,502,000, reflects an increase of 48 per cent in programme activities compared with the approved final programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997, amounting to US$74,542,900.

132. Draft financial rules have been prepared, taking into account the new format and methodology for the budget of the Fund of UNDCP, for consideration by the Commission. The draft rules were reviewed by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) (E/CN.7/1997/10). The revised draft financial rules of the Fund of UNDCP are contained in a note by the Executive Director (E/CN.7/1998/6). It is the intention of the Secretary-General to promulgate the revised draft financial rules, subject to the comments of the Commission and ACABQ.

133. The funding situation remains volatile. The Fund of UNDCP continues to rely on a small donor base. Special-purpose (earmarked) contributions represent approximately 70 per cent of total budgetary income and general-purpose contributions account for 30 per cent. The increased earmarking of contributions has the effect of limiting the flexibility of UNDCP in launching new operations.

134. During the biennium 1996-1997, income of US$109.9 million was expected to cover total expenditure amounting to US$109.4 million, with the Fund balance remaining at around US$62 million. However, increased programme activities in the biennium 1998-1999 should decrease the Fund balance to around US$30 million, in accordance with guidelines received from the Commission. The sustainability of increased programme activities will thereafter depend on additional resources in addition to those currently anticipated.

C. Resource mobilization

135. New pledges of US$48.9 million were made to UNDCP in 1997, a drop of some US$8 million from the 1996 figure. The decrease is largely attributable to significantly reduced pledges from five major donors that were not offset by notable increases from four others. While the level of pledges is, to a certain degree, artificially influenced by the number of new multi-year programmes launched during a given year, the decrease is nevertheless disturbing because it follows a decrease of nearly US$3 million in 1996.

136. Sixteen donors provided 91 per cent of the total pledges for 1997. Although the donor base continues to be rather narrow, some progress has been made in broadening it, in line with the strategy endorsed by the Commission in its resolution 10 (XXXIX). Particularly encouraging was the pledge of the Government of Mexico of a total of US$400,000 in 1997, together with pledges of US$300,000 each from the Governments of Argentina and Colombia. The Government of Nigeria pledged US$100,000, the highest amount ever pledged by the Government of an African country. Significantly increased pledges were also made in 1997 by the Governments of Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, the Republic of Korea and Turkey, while India and Ireland renewed their increased pledges from 1996. In addition, the Drug Abuse Prevention Centre, a Japanese non-governmental organization, again contributed US$500,000 to the Fund of UNDCP, bringing the cumulative total over four years to nearly US$2 million. Contributions were also received for the first time from the Aga Khan Development Network. Major cost-sharing arrangements continued in 1997 with the Governments of Bolivia, Brazil and Colombia, in connection with UNDCP projects in those countries.

Notes

[1]*Official Records of the United Nations Conference for the Adoption of a Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, Vienna, 25 November-20 December 1988*, vol. I (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.XI.5).

[2]United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 976, No. 14152.

[3]Ibid., vol. 1019, No. 14956.